

\$20,000 subscribe to the Internet, however, in North Carolina the figure is 49%. Nationally, 60% of Americans in the middle class subscribe to the Internet; however, in North Carolina the number is 79%. Of Americans earning over \$100,000 a year, 85% subscribe to the Internet; in North Carolina that number is at 91%.

Joe Freddoso (President and CEO, MCNC) presented information about the North Carolina School Connectivity Program, known as the K20 Connectivity Initiative. The program is MCNC's three-year plan to work with the State's 115 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that were not connected to a common backbone and were using commercial internet services. According to Freddoso, by connecting the LEAs to the NCREN network, the schools were taken off a congested highway and put onto a fast-moving high occupancy vehicle lane that only runs North Carolina education traffic. Now, the education traffic moves freely and things can be done simultaneously without constant interruption and clutter.

November 14, 2008 Meeting Summary

The fifth meeting of the Committee was held on November 14, 2008.

Joe Freddoso (President and CEO, MCNC) returned to the Committee to provide an update on the LEA connectivity project, indicating that all 115 of North Carolina's K-12 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) were expected to be connected to the North Carolina Research and Education Network (NCREN) by the end of the 2008 calendar year.

Herb Crenshaw (Director, External Affairs, AT&T) informed the Committee that broadband services providers were in the final stages of negotiating a contract with Connected Nation, a non-profit organization that works in multiple states to engage community stakeholders, state leaders and technology providers to develop and implement technology expansion programs. After some discussion, the Committee endorsed the efforts of the service providers and Connected Nation to more clearly identify where broadband services are available/not available in the State.

Bill Craigle (Alltel Wireless) presented information concerning the availability of mobile broadband technology in North Carolina. The technology allows for internet access with speeds up to 1.3 mbps, averaging 500 to 800kbps. According to Craigle, North Carolina ranks 10th in deployment. Mobile 3G would cost the state \$321,226,500 with the growth of 107 new cell sites and 2,007 augmented cell sites. For clarification it was explained that Pre-3G is equivalent to